Claims 4-6 have been amended.

Claim 8 has been amended. However, the AMSE standard that was disclosed to examiner says only "tool" and applicants disclosure states only a "tool". The word tool means any device other than a person's body part.

Claims 1-3,5,7-9,12-15,18 and 19 examiner used 35 U.S.C. 102 for rejections.

Claims 1,13 and 18 have been amended to add drainage openings in the lower peripheral edge of the faceplate. Mattson 6,395,167 has drainage openings in the housing, not the lower peripheral edge of the faceplate. Examiners attention is respectfully drawn to U.S. Ser. No. 10/870,091, which is a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 6,751,814 to Mattson et al., Titled, Whirlpool Bath Filter and Suction Device.

The rest of the claims depend from amended claims 1,13 and 18 and thus should be allowed.

1. (Currently amended) In combination with a whirlpool bathtub, said whirlpool bathtub having a tub, the tub having an inside surface, a closed loop plumbing system, a housing assembly component, a water pump and an output jet, a suction and purification device comprising: a porous faceplate having a chemical dispenser; said porous faceplate having drainage openings in the lower peripheral edge; and wherein said chemical dispenser is in axial alignment with said faceplate and located adjacent to a front surface of said faceplate.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser is insertable into said housing assembly component of said tub.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said chemical dispenser is further located adjacent to an inlet orifice of said housing assembly component after insertion.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said suction and purification device further comprises a cavitation port to inhibit a suction force caused by said pump if said faceplate is missing or if said faceplate is improperly attached to said housing assembly component.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, said suction and purification device further comprising a filter located adjacent to the faceplate.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said suction and purification device further comprises a cavitation port to inhibit a suction force caused by said pump if said filter means is missing or if said filter means is improperly inserted into said housing assembly component.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said suction and purification device has one or more chemical dispensers.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said faceplate further comprises a pop off design.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said faceplate has one or more rearwardly extending members for positioning the faceplate when initially inserted into said housing assembly component.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser has a length of less than about 8 inches.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser has a diameter of less than about 2 inches.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser further comprises one or more openings to release a metered dose of said chemical housed

therein into said water.

13. (Currently amended) In combination with a whirlpool bathtub, said whirlpool bathtub having a tub, the tub having an inside surface, a closed loop plumbing system, a housing assembly component, a water pump and an output jet, a suction and purification device comprising: a faceplate means functioning to filter substantially large debris from entering said closed loop plumbing system; said faceplate means having a dispensing means, said faceplate means having water drainage passages in the lower peripheral edge; said dispensing means functioning to discharge antimicrobial chemicals into said closed loop plumbing system; and wherein said dispensing means is in axial alignment with said faceplate means and located adjacent to a front surface of said faceplate means.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said dispensing means is insertable into said housing assembly component of said tub.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said dispensing means is further located adjacent to an inlet orifice of said housing assembly component after insertion.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of retrofitting a below-the-waterline suction device having a faceplate, said method comprising the steps of: removing said faceplate; providing a chemical dispenser; attaching said chemical dispenser to a component of said suction device; and installing a retrofit faceplate on said suction device.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of retrofitting a below-the-waterline suction device having a faceplate, said method comprising the steps of: removing said faceplate; providing a retrofit faceplate having a chemical dispenser located rearward of a front surface of said retrofit faceplate and in axially alignment with said retrofit faceplate; and installing said retrofit faceplate on said suction device.

18. (Currently amended) In combination with a whirlpool bathtub, said whirlpool bathtub having a tub, the tub having an inside surface, a closed loop plumbing system, a housing

assembly component, a water pump and output jets, a suction and purification device comprising: a porous faceplate having a chemical dispenser; wherein said chemical dispenser is in axial alignment with said faceplate and located adjacent to a front surface of said faceplate; said chemical dispenser housing a chemical; wherein said chemical dispenser has one or more openings to release said chemical into a suction line of said closed loop plumbing system when contacted with water; and wherein said faceplate has drainage openings in the lower peripheral edge.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said one or more openings may vary in size, configuration, and location.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of replenishing a chemical in a below-the-waterline suction device for a whirlpool bathtub having a faceplate and a chemical dispenser that houses the chemical, said chemical dispenser located rearward of a front surface of faceplate and adjacent to an input orifice of a suction device housing, said method comprising the steps of: removing said chemical dispenser from said suction device; refilling the chemical dispenser with said chemical; and reinstalling the chemical dispenser in said suction device.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of replenishing a chemical in a below-the-waterline suction device for a whirlpool bathtub having a faceplate and a chemical dispenser that houses the chemical, said chemical dispenser located rearward of a front surface of faceplate and adjacent to an input orifice of a suction device housing, said method comprising the steps of: removing said chemical dispenser from said suction device; replacing the chemical dispenser with a new chemical dispenser; and reinstalling said new chemical dispenser in said suction device.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of replenishing a chemical in a below-the-waterline suction device for a whirlpool bathtub having a faceplate and a chemical dispenser that houses the chemical, said chemical dispenser located rearward of a front surface of faceplate and adjacent to an input orifice of a suction device housing, said method comprising the step

of replacing said chemical in said chemical dispenser without removing said chemical dispenser.

23. (Withdrawn) A method to reduce bacteria growth in a whirlpool bathtub, the method comprising the steps of: forming a faceplate to intake circulating bath water; locating a chemical chamber adjacent the faceplate; and filling the chemical chamber with an antimicrobial agent.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of placing the chemical chamber in axial alignment with the faceplate.

25. (Withdrawn) A faceplate comprising: a mount for a suction fitting; an axially aligned chemical chamber located rearward and adjacent to said faceplate; said chemical chamber having a chemical that releases and mixes with water that is directly induced into the suction fitting; and wherein said chemical inhibits bacteria growth.

Applicants request that this application be past into allowance.

Respectfully,

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